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by purely photographic processes in an entirely satisfactory manner. The LICK Observatory has no facilities for making enlargements of this sort upon paper, and we have made no experiments in enlargements except upon glass plates. The highly successful experiments of Baron ROTHSCHILD are therefore all the more welcome.

E. S. H.

HELIOGRAVURE OF *MARE CRISIUM* AND VICINITY.

The frontispiece to Volume V of 1893 of the *Publications* is a heliogravure of *Mare Crisium* and vicinity, copied from a drawing made by Professor WEINEK from LICK Observatory negatives. The impressions printed in our volume have been presented to the Society by Mrs. PHEBE HEARST. The great advantage of the heliogravure process over others may be seen by comparing the print in No. 27, A. S. P., with the phototype engraving given on page 81 of Volume IV.

Professor WEINEK is now preparing a volume of such heliogravures, which will be published by the LICK Observatory by the aid of a gift from Mr. LAW of New York. A few of his drawings have already been published in the *Zeichnungen und Studien des Mondes*, Prague, 1893.

E. S. H.

THE PROPOSED OBSERVATORY ON MONT BLANC.

The three wood-cuts in the present number are here printed by permission of the editors of the *Illustrated American*, New York. They illustrate in a striking manner the difficulties to be overcome in placing an observatory upon the summit of this high mountain. These difficulties are described in some detail in these *Publications*, Vol. III, page 50, and Vol. IV, page 181.

The height of Mont Blanc is 15,700 feet. Pike's Peak in Colorado is 14,134 feet high and its summit is connected by *railway* with the neighboring town of Manitou. It would seem, therefore, to have certain practical advantages over the French station.

E. S. H.

FALL OF A METEORIC STONE IN INDIA IN A. D. 1621.

In the Memoirs of the Mogul Emperor JAHANGIR (ELLIOT'S History of India, Vol. VI, page 378) the following interesting chronicle appears:

"Fall of a Meteoric Stone.

"On the morning of the 30th *Farwardin* of the present year [XVI year of the reign which began 10th March, 1621], a very

loud and dreadful noise arose from the east * * In the midst of the noise a light fell on the earth from the sky * * The chieft officer of the village rode immediately to the spot 'and saw the place with his own eyes.' The land for about ten or twelve yards in length and breadth was so burned that not a blade of grass was found there. The ground was yet warm. He ordered it to be dug and the deeper it was dug the warmer the ground was found to be. At last a piece of iron appeared which was as hot as if it had just been taken out of a furnace." It was sealed in a bag and sent to the Emperor and was found to weigh 160 *tolas*, which, I believe, is about 66 pounds. Two swords, a knife and a dagger were made from it, by mixing three parts of the meteoric iron with one part of common iron; and the blades were excellent—"equal to the best tempered swords." E. S. H.

ANCIENT COMETS.

The following references have some value to a compiler of a Catalogue of Ancient Comets:—

"In 330 A. H. (941-2 A. D.) a comet made its appearance, the tail of which reached from the eastern to the western horizon. It remained in the heavens eighteen days * * * " ELLIOT'S History of India, Vol. II, page 505. [This is probably either No. 309 or 310 of CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) of Comets; WILLIAMS' Chinese Comets, Nos. 54, 64.]

Thirteenth year of the reign of the Mogul Emperor JAHANGIR: "*Saturday, 17th Zi-l ka' da.* Several nights before this, a little before dawn, a luminous vapor, in the form of a column, had made its appearance, and every succeeding night it arose half an hour earlier than on the preceding night. When it had attained its full development, it looked like a spear (*or* like a porcupine), with the two ends thin, but thick about the middle. It was a little curved, like a reaping-sickle, with its back towards the south and its edge towards the north. On the date above mentioned it rose three hours before sunrise. The astronomers measured its size with their astrolabes and, on an average of different observations, it was found to extend 24 degrees. Its course was in the empyrean heaven, but it had a proper motion of its own, independent of that firmament, as it was retrograde—first appearing in the sign of the *Scorpion*, then in that of the *Scales*. Astrologers have written that it portends evil to the chiefs of Arabia. Allah only knows if this be true!